

Kangaroo and wallaby identification guide



As a landholder operating under a lethal damage mitigation permit, this information will help you identify common kangaroos and wallabies in Queensland.

Queensland's native wildlife is protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (the Act) to ensure the conservation of our nature. The Act recognises that there are necessary exceptions, including for the purpose of minimising damage or loss of property.

A damage mitigation permit (culling and dispersal of wildlife) authorises you to take kangaroos and wallabies (macropods) in such circumstances.

As a permit holder, you need to accurately identify the macropod species on your application before dispersing or culling the animals.

There are 28 species of kangaroos and wallabies throughout Queensland, including tree-kangaroos, rock wallabies, large kangaroos and wallabies. Correctly identifying species may be sometimes difficult, and this information will help with working out the common kangaroos and wallabies on your property.

For further information on damage mitigation permits, go to the Queensland Government website at www.des.qld.gov.au/damage-mitigation-permit.

References:

CSIRO 2018 *Atlas of Living Australia*, viewed 10 September 2018 <<https://www.ala.org.au/>>.

Johnson, P, 2003 *Kangaroos of Queensland*, Queensland Museum, PO Box 3300, South Brisbane, Qld, Australia 4101.

Menkhorst, P and Knight, M, 2001 *A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia*, Oxford, 253 Normanby Road, South Melbourne, Australia.

Queensland Government 2018 *Species profile search*, viewed 10 September 2018 <<https://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/species-search>>.

Strahan, R (ed.) 1998 *The Mammals of Australia*, Australian Museum, New Holland Pty Ltd, 3/2 Aquatic Drive, Frenchs Forest, NSW, Australia 2086.

Van Dyck, S, Gynther, G and Baker, A, 2013 *Field Companion to the Mammals of Australia*, New Holland Pty Ltd, 1/66 Gibbes Street, Chatswood, NSW, Australia 2067.

Red kangaroo

Macropus rufus | Commercial harvest species

Description:

Colouration: Males tend to be orange-red in colouring. Females are mostly blue-grey with a brown tinge (commonly called 'blue fliers'). But this can vary, and both males and females can be a combination of red, blue-grey and other variations like yellow through to almost white. Both males and females have a lighter whitish colour underneath and short fur.

Behaviour: Nomadic and travel large distances in search of food. Often found alone, or in mobs of ten.

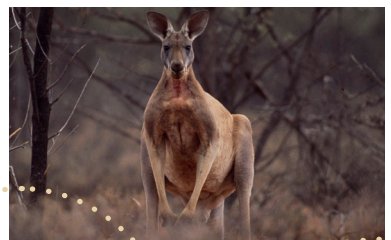
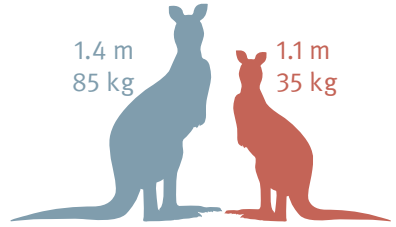
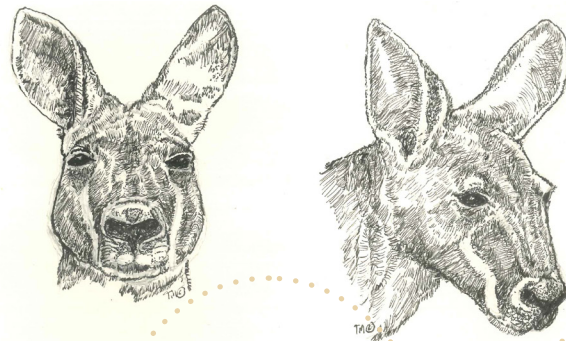
Distinguishing features:

Facial features: Red kangaroos can be distinguished from other species of kangaroos by the black and white patches on their cheeks and the broad white stripe that extends from the corner of the mouth to ear.

Often confused with:

The **common wallaroo** is stockier and has longer, shaggier fur.

Antilopine wallaroo lack the distinct facial markings red kangaroos have and are a less common species in Queensland, with a habitat range limited to far north Queensland and Northern Territory.



Eastern grey kangaroo

Macropus giganteus | Commercial harvest species

Description:

Colouration: Upper parts grey-brown, paler on hind legs and feet; under parts pale grey or whitish and woolly fur. Tail has a black tip.

Behaviour: Sedentary with a ranging of only a few kilometres for food. Generally found in mobs of around ten.

Distinguishing features:

Facial features: Paler face and upper parts. Eyes outlined in darker hair so they stand out. Hairy muzzle with fine hairs between nostrils and upper lip.

Colouration: Lighter, more even colour overall.

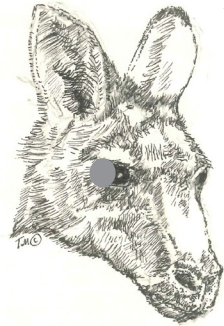
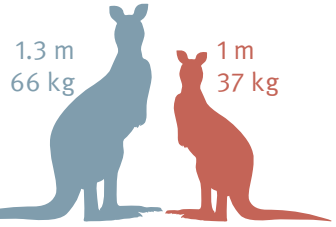
Gait: Upright hopping style (more so than any other species).

Smell: Adult male western greys have a distinctive curry-like smell.

Often confused with:

The **western grey kangaroo**—the distribution of eastern and western greys overlaps in south-west Queensland and can be hard to tell apart. Generally, eastern greys are more common in Queensland.

Eastern grey kangaroos are (generally) a lighter grey, have smoother, shorter fur and a paler face.



Western grey kangaroo

Macropus fuliginosus

Description:

Colouration: Brown-grey upper parts, with pale grey under parts. White patch on upper thighs can be seen when animal is facing the other way or moving away (eastern greys don't have this).

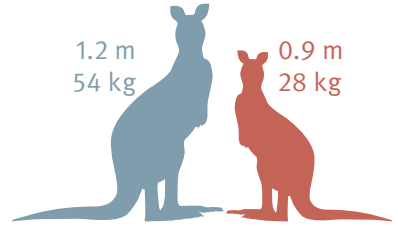
Distinguishing features:

Facial features: Dark brown/black muzzle and face. Broad face with a whitish fringe on the jawline, often with a line of white outlining the lower face. Throat, ear edges and other light parts contrast strongly with rest of fur.

Gait: Western greys hold their heads lower when moving, compared to eastern greys.

Often confused with:

The **eastern grey kangaroo**—western grey kangaroos are (generally) darker brown, have woollier fur and have more rounded ears.



Common wallaroo

Macropus robustus | Commercial harvest species

Description:

Colouration: Colour varies greatly (based on distribution/subspecies/sex) from light brown/grey to rusty red to black. Lower legs and feet are black. Males have a mixture of black and rusty red. Females have a mixture of blue-grey with rusty red. Both sexes have light orange fur across the neck and shoulders.

Body: Long, shaggy fur with a heavy, stocky build.

Behaviour: Often inhabits hilly or mountainous terrain.

Distinguishing features:

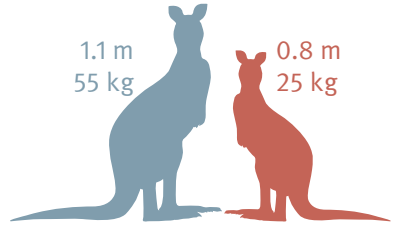
Facial features: Nose pad bare (black). Short muzzle, less pointed ears, and pale eyelids.

Colouration: Tail uniform in colour (compared to western and eastern greys) and feet are black.

Gait: Distinctive short hop compared to greys or reds. The tail is curved up when hopping—making a kind of S-shape with the body.

Often confused with:

The **red kangaroo**, the **eastern grey kangaroo** and the **western grey kangaroo**.



Agile wallaby

Macropus agilis

Description:

Colouration: Yellow-brown to reddish in colour with pale under parts. Pale hip stripe and a long, sandy coloured tail.

Distinguishing features:

Facial features: Distinctive facial markings with a white stripe under the eye, and a darker line about it. Ears are edged in black, with a dark brown line running between the ears on the top of the head.

Colouration: There is a distinct light stripe on the thigh.

Often confused with:

The **northern nailtail wallaby** and the **antilopine wallaby**—these two species inhabit far north Queensland and the Northern Territory.

0.85 m
27 kg

0.72 m
15 kg



Whiptail wallaby

Macropus parryi | (Pretty-face wallaby)

Description:

Colouration: Grey-brown with whitish under parts and a distinctive pale strip on hind legs. Paws are black. In winter, the coat is lighter grey; in summer the coat is brown-grey.

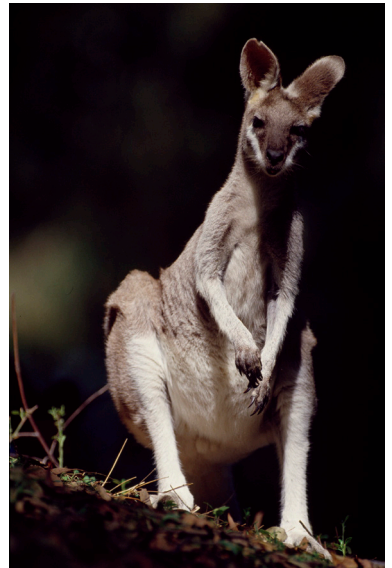
Facial features: Slender, narrow muzzle with distinctive pale stripes, which contrast strongly with dark brown head. Black stripe on forehead. Tri-coloured ears—brown at the base, white in the middle and black on the tips.

Body: Tail is longer than many species with a black tip.

Behaviour: Occur in large, social groups of up to 50 individuals.

Distinguishing features:

Facial and hip stripes and ear markings.



Black-striped wallaby

Macropus dorsalis

Description:

Colouration: Short fur, upper part grey-brown, grizzled, with reddish forequarters (including arms and ears), whitish under parts. Dark stripe down the back from forehead to mid-back. White stripe on face and hind legs.

Facial features: Black and hairless muzzle with a white cheek stripe.

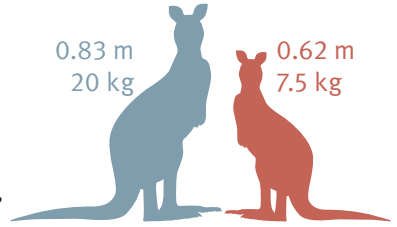
Gait: Short hop, head low, body strongly curved, forearms extended straight outwards.

Distinguishing features:

Colouration: Black mid-line stripe on back from neck to tail.

Often confused with:

The **red-necked wallaby**.



Red-necked wallaby

Macropus rufogriseus

Description:

Colouration: Short, grey-brown fur with red-brown ears, neck, shoulders and rump with a white belly. Dark front paws, feet and tail tip.

Facial features: White stripe along upper lip. Ears edged with dark brown.

Behaviour: Solitary, but may form feeding groups of up to 30 individuals.

Distinguishing features:

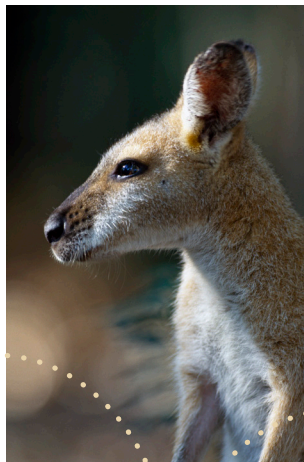
No black mid-line stripe.

No white hip stripe.

Often confused with:

The **black-striped wallaby** and the **swamp wallaby**.

At a glance, the red neck and shoulders can be confused with the orange fur on the neck and shoulders of the **common wallaroo**.



Swamp wallaby

Wallabia bicolor

Description:

Colouration: Swamp wallabies vary greatly in colouration. Dark brown to black upper parts. Rufous-orange to pale yellow underneath (highly variable). Grey face, forehead and base of crown lighter rufous/ yellow. Darker paws and hind feet, with black armpits. Tail blackish, thick and sometimes with a white tip.

Facial features: Light yellow to light brown cheek stripe.

Gait: Hops low to the ground with the tail out straight, almost horizontal.

Habitat: Often in dense thickets in a variety of forest types such as brigalow and open-eucalypt woodlands.

Distinguishing features:

Colouration: Rufous and yellow colouration.

Gait.

Often confused with:

The **black-striped wallaby** and the **red-necked wallaby**—these species are greyer and have pale grey tails.



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